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STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE
BY THE HONOURABLE JOHN WHITE
TREASURER OF ONTARIO
CONCERNING HALDIMAND-NORFOLK

31 MAY 1973

MR. SPEAKER,

AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME TODAY I WILL TABLE THE TWO STUDIES PREPARED FOR THE GOVERNMENT ON DEVELOPMENT IN HALDIMAND AND NORFOLK.

THIS STUDY WAS COMMISSIONED BY MR. McKEOUGH IN 1969 FOLLOWING PROPOSALS FOR LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NANTICOKE AND SUBSEQUENTLY PORT BURWELL AREAS.

THE STUDIES WERE CARRIED OUT BY A PROJECT TEAM UNDER NIGEL RICHARDSON OF MY MINISTRY AND INVOLVED EXTENSIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE MUNICIPALITIES IN THE TWO COUNTIES.


I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE HOUSE TO THE PRESENCE IN THE SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE, OF MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THIS UNDERTAKING. I THANK THEM AND ASK THEM TO CONVEY OUR THANKS TO ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. SPEAKER -- THE TWO REPORTS WHICH ARE CALLED THRESHOLD OF CHANGE: LAND AND DEVELOPMENT AND THRESHOLD OF CHANGE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE TO ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA AND THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE THIS PROCESS OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION WHICH I HOPE WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE BEST POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THIS IMPORTANT AREA OF ONTARIO.

AS I TOLD THE HOUSE LAST WEEK WE INTEND TO USE THE PROCEDURES OF THE NEW ONTARIO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, WHICH I WILL INTRODUCE ON MONDAY, TO PROCESS ANY PROPOSALS WHICH WE ADOPT FROM THE LAND AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT.

THIS WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES OF HALDIMAND AND NORFOLK AND THOSE FROM ADJOINING COUNTIES, WHICH MAY BE AFFECTED BY OUR ACTIONS, TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND CHANGES TO THE REPORT BEFORE ANY GOVERNMENT POLICY IS DEVELOPED FROM IT.

MR. SPEAKER, THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE LAND AND DEVELOPMENT STUDY DEAL WITH URBAN STRATEGY, URBAN DEVELOPMENT TACTICS, SERVICES AND HOUSING, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION, RECREATION AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, TRANSPORTATION, LINEAR SERVICES AND SERVICE CORRIDORS.



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ONE OF THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS DEALS WITH A HIERARCHY OF URBAN PLACES CONCEPT. THIS ENVISAGES THE ORDERLY EXPANSION OF EXISTING MUNICIPALITIES TO ACCOMMODATE AN ADDITIONAL 100,000 PEOPLE BY THE YEAR 2000 COUPLED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW URBAN CENTRE TO ACCOMMODATE UP TO 150,000 ADDITIONAL PEOPLE OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

THE STUDY TEAM HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE PROVINCE ACQUIRE A SITE IN WOODHOUSE TOWNSHIP FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS NEW URBAN CENTRE.

ALTHOUGH THE WOODHOUSE NEW TOWN PROPOSAL IS PERHAPS THE MOST STRIKING FEATURE OF THE PLANNING REPORT A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO PRESERVING THE OUTSTANDING NATURAL ASSETS OF THE AREA SUCH AS THE LAKE ERIE BEACHES, THE LOWER GRAND VALLEY AND LONG POINT.

MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY ARE GIVEN EQUAL TREATMENT WITH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION.

THE STUDY DEALING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDS: THAT THE COUNTIES OF HALDIMAND AND NORFOLK BE COMBINED INTO A SINGLE TWO-TIER REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY WITH THE NUMBER OF AREA MUNICIPALITIES REDUCED FROM 28 TO SIX.

IT SUGGESTS RESPONSIBILITIES OF REGIONAL COUNCIL COULD INCLUDE PLANNING, TAXATION, TAX BILLING, CAPITAL BORROWING, PIPED SERVICES, MAIN ROADS, GARBAGE DISPOSAL, POLICE, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING, CONSERVATION, BUILDING AND RELATED BY-LAWS AND STANDARDS, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.

THE REPORT RECOMMENDS RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCILS OF AREA MUNICIPALITIES WOULD INCLUDE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION, LAND DRAINAGE, LOCAL ROADS AND STREETS, STREET CLEANING AND GARBAGE COLLECTION, PARKING, FIRE PROTECTION, ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, LIBRARIES AND THE CONTROL OF NUISANCES.

MR. SPEAKER, I CANNOT EMPHASIZE TOO STRONGLY TO THE HOUSE AND TO THE RESIDENTS OF HALDIMAND AND NORFOLK THAT THESE STUDIES ARE NOT GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR EITHER LAND DEVELOPMENT OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN HALDIMAND AND NORFOLK.

WE ARE OFFERING THESE AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION -- FOR A CONSULTATIVE PROCESS WHICH WE HOPE WILL LEAD TO PROPOSALS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RESIDENTS OF THESE COUNTIES AND OUR PROVINCE.

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PEOPLE AND TO PROTECT THE

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